technical problems the flight is delayed by longer hours. And when a problem crops up either in the air or on the ground, no effort is made to take the passengers into confidence so that they are assured of safe travel. Therefore, I urge upon the Indian Airlines and also the Minister of Civil Aviation to look into these problems seriously, try to effect the necessary safety measures and avoid technical snags. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Shri Rajni Ranjan Sahu.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, if you would kindly permit me...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI:) After the Special Mentions are over.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, it will take hardly a minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): All right. Just one minute.

CLARIFICATION RE. INDO-SRI LANKA AGREEMENT

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Sir, I am deeply grateful to you for permitting me to break the queue, as it were, but I find it as an obligation because a particular point of mine was not sufficiently clarified by the honourable Minister of State, and you very kindly permitted me because the honourable Minister of State has other engagements to attend to.

Now, this relates to the aspect of the employment of the Indian Armed Forces. Our understanding. Sir, is that the employment of the Indian Armed Forces in a peacekeeping role is, of course, as a product of this agreement but in no way would the peacekeeping role of the Indian Armed Forces would question the sovereign rights of a sovereign nation with which we have arrived at this agreement. That is my understanding of this agreement. Just in case some other conclusions are drawn, it is perhaps an opportune moment for the honourable Minister to clarify this matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Sir, clause 2.16 (C) of the agreement says:

> "In the event that the Government of Sri Lanka requests the Government of India to afford military assistance to implement these proposals the Government of India will co-operate by giving to the Government of Sri Lanka such military assistance as and when requested."

Now, Sir, in an interview with the BBC, the other day, the Prime Minister was asked a similar question:

> "When do you think your Army Will be out of Sri Lanka?

The Prime Minister said:

> "As soon as the disarming is done, as soon as there is confidence in the local people, that is, between the Sinhalese and Tamils and the Government and the citizens and President Jayewardene asks me to do so, we will withdraw the Army instantly."

It is not our desire to stay there longer than we are required to. So, if I was not able to give you a clarification and there was misunderstanding, I hope it has been cleared now. Thank you.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd.

Delay in IA flights due to Technical snags—Contd.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I join Prof. Lakshmanna towards the